

# Griswold family holds reunion

Ridge Farm, Waymart, RD 1, established in 1812 by Levi Norton when he moved from Goshen, Conn., to Clinton Township, Wayne County, and recently the home of Mrs. Margaret Rude, was the site of the 75th meeting of the Griswold Reunion.

Beneath the majestic Norway spruce trees which surround the family house 62 descendants of John Griswold and his wife, Elizabeth Crittenden, and friends of the Griswold descendants, gathered for a covered dish dinner.

As the tables were being cleared in readiness for the annual program and business meeting, a drawing and awards ceremony, organized and presented by S. Robert Powell, took place, and seven "extremely valuable" prizes — Chinese paper fans, Oriental tea, and others — were drawn for. Among the winners were Mrs. Leona Vaughn, who came the longest distance — from the state of Washington, five miles from Puget Sound, and Mrs. Margaret Rude, who came the shortest distance. The business meeting and program, presided over by Mrs. Beatrice Bartholomay, acting president, began by the entire group standing and singing one verse of "America," and by a prayer by Rev. G. Fay Crossman.

The following officers were elected for the coming year: president, John Rude; vice president, Stephen Gravalec; secretary-treasurer, Donald W. Powell; program committee chairman, Alice Lund. The former table committee, Mildred LaBarre, Gertrude Snyder and Dorothy Oliver, were unanimously reelected.

The Griswold Reunion always takes place on the third Wednesday of August, and the third Wednesday of August is also one of the four publication dates of the historical quarterly, "Northeastern Pennsylvania." The historical quarterly dealing with the history of the eleven counties of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

The issue of "Northeastern Pennsylvania" published on Wednesday, Aug. 19, 1981, is entitled "Studio Photography in Northeastern Pennsylvania, 1839-1900, Part III." The issue also contains eight pages of "Genealogical and Local History Notes," a regular feature of the quarterly.

In the Nov. 19, 1980, issue of "Northeastern Pennsylvania," appeared a detailed history of the Griswold family entitled, "John Griswold 1754-1843 and Elizabeth Crittenden 1761-1851 of Clinton Township, Wayne County, Pennsylvania; their ancestors, their descendants."

The author of that history, S. Robert Powell, has in the past year been energeti-

cally and methodically engaged in gathering as much material as possible on the Griswolds, and a questionnaire seeking basic biographical information on births, deaths, marriages and graduations, was sent to many Griswold descendants. Griswolds who could not be at Ridge Farm on Aug. 19, 1981, for the reunion, sent in their questionnaires by mail. An invitation to the reunion was sent to the daughter of Gertrude Irene Loomis and Henry H. Schaffer, and her husband, Audrey and Terje Steinseth, who live in Norway. Two days after the reunion an audio cassette was sent by Mrs. Steinseth to Mrs. Margaret Rude. In that cassette Audrey Steinseth talks about her family and about the geography of Norway. In addition to the wealth of new information from the returned questionnaires, much new information was read aloud to the assembled group by Mrs. Verna C. Varcoe, acting head of the committee on births, deaths and marriages, and by Mrs. Stephen Treat, Mrs. Margaret Rude, and S. Robert Powell.

Mrs. Alice Lund, head of the program committee, then presented Mrs. Mildred Anderson, who played her autoharp and led the group in singing old time songs and hymns. Mrs. Lund then gave a violin solo, "Whispering," by popular demand she repeated her performance and the entire group sang along with her.

Mrs. Lund then read a text which she prepared on her recollections of the buildings and life as it was lived at the family ancestral home, the John Griswold Homestead, built in 1819 by Captain Levi Bennett for John Griswold and Elizabeth Crittenden, and in later years owned by Francis Griswold and his wife, Jane Loomis, who established therein the Cold Water Tavern. On May 1, 1871, the Cold Water Tavern became the property of Henry Banning Curtis and Louisa Griswold and then became known as the Curtis Homestead.

The Curtis Homestead still stands. Since the 74th reunion of the descendants of John Griswold and Elizabeth Crittenden on Aug. 20, 1980, two honored members of the Griswold family died: Louis Tryphenia (Norton) Curtis and Dwight William Rude. In order to pay tribute to these honored family members, S. Robert Powell prepared and read to the group a paper entitled "In Memoriam Lois Tryphenia (Norton) Curtis In Memoriam Dwight William Rude."

After some remarks to the group by Rev. Anderson and by Rev. Crossman, various members of the group spoke of past reunions, of previous get togethers, and about

the Griswolds. Fred Olver spoke of a personal connection between his mother and father and Ridge Farm, Leona Vaughn, who hadn't been East from the state of Washington since 1970, recalled some moments when she was a little girl living with her family in South Dakota, Darwin and Eleanor Brudos, from South Dakota, recalled some visits of Mr. and Mrs. Dwight W. Rude to South Dakota many years ago for the pheasant hunting.

The gracious offer of John and Amy Rude, enthusiastically seconded by Mrs. Margaret Rude, to have the reunion next year at Ridge Farm, was unanimously agreed upon by the group. The group then adjourned to the front lawn of the Rude home where a group portrait was taken by Donald W. Powell.

**Births:** John Griswold line, no births reported; Francis Griswold line, Nelson Corey, Jr., Jan. 20, 1951, Jason Corey, Dec. 9 1974, Carrie Ann Corey, Nov. 26, 1976, Jamie Corey, Feb. 27, 1981, Diana Berly Steinseth, Aug. 31, 1980, Jean Marie Loomis, March 5, 1981, Amanda Leigh Loomis, May 26, 1981, Brett Alexander Milliken, Nov. 28, 1980, Melissa Curtis, Feb. 5, 1981, Jennifer Ann Cease, March 3, 1981, Jeffrey Scott Stiles, July 19, 1981, Donald William Stiles, Jan. 13, 1981; Orrin Griswold line, no births reported; Sumner Griswold line, Tamsyn Valshinas, March 25, 1981, April Ann Rose, April 19, 1981, Justin Thomas Brady, June 27, 1981, Molly Lynn Spangenberg, Jan. 4, 1981, Nena Kay Arnold, Nov. 14, 1980, Amanda McDonough, March 17, 1981; Horace Griswold line, Phillip John Tucker, Nov. 15, 1980; Sedate Griswold line, no births reported.

**Deaths:** John Griswold line, no deaths reported; Francis Griswold line, Elizabeth Cecelia (Reiner) Loomis, Jan. 6, 1981, Helen Hess (Miller) Loomis, Oct. 10, 1980, Cecelia (Owens) Loomis, March 16, 1981, Dale Starbuck, Aug. 10, 1981, Curtis Maynard Ewing, July 2, 1981, Dwight William Rude, Feb. 14, 1981, Lois Tryphenia (Norton) Curtis, May 27, 1981, Geraldine (Wright) Helt, Aug. 13, 1981; Orrin Griswold line, no deaths reported; Sumner Griswold line, Elizabeth (Boehmer) Cox, Nov. 15, 1980; Horace Griswold line, John Wilmer Olver, Nov. 19, 1980; Sedate Griswold line, no deaths reported.

**Marriages:** John Griswold line, no marriages reported, Francis Griswold line, Nelson Corey and Margaret Zenevich, Oct. 7, 1950, Marie Corey and William Westgate, April 13, 1973, Mary Louise DeWolf and Donald Renner, date not known, Rodney Kenneth Loomis and Tina Karen Leola, Nov. 22, 1980, Leonard John Curtis and Bonnie Lee Lockett, Aug. 9, 1980, James Larry Hauenstein and Ruth L. Richner, July 11, 1981, Howard Curtis Bartholomay and Elizabeth Fain, Jan. 3, 1981; Orrin Griswold line, Althea Griswold and Stephen Kagler, June 21, 1867, M. Belle Kagler and Arthur J. Perry, July 1, 1891; Sumner Griswold line, Jennie Ophelia Arnold and Charles A. Gaylor, March 31, 1886, Christina Kozak and Robert Wilson, June 19, 1977, Michael Craig Brunt and Carol Todd, Sept. 14, 1977, Karen Diane Arnold and Earl J. Appel, Nov. 30, 1980, William Henry Arnold and Bernadine \_\_\_\_\_, date not known, Eva C. Arnold and Edwin A. Randall, Sept. 7, 1904, Susan Anna Arnold and John L. Cook, June 23, 1897; Horace Griswold line, Robert Eugene Olver and Jeannette Davis, Sept. 19, 1980, Patricia Ann Donato and \_\_\_\_\_, Tucker, no date known; Sedate Griswold line, no marriages reported.